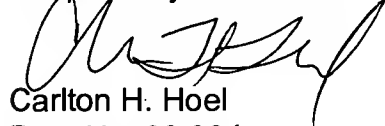


Claim 4 was rejected as unpatentable over Auda in view of Mishra and Maniar. The Examiner applied Auda as previously and added Mishra for dummy gates and Maniar for antireflective coatings.

Applicants repeat the argument that the references have no suggestion of the mixed use of photoresist: with and without linewidth reduction. The Examiner is correct that the elements of the claims are notoriously well-known items (interconnect lithography, dummy gate, antireflective coating, and photoresist reduction); but the claims are combinations of such elements. For example, Mishra forms a silicon nitride dummy gate using standard photolithography (column 6, lines 51-54), then reduces the size of the dummy gate (column 6, lines 54-58), and eventually forms a T-shaped gate. Thus Mishra suggests the opposite of the claimed linewidth reduction of the photoresist prior to dummy gate formation and is inconsistent with Auda who also reduces the photoresist prior to gate formation. The references disclose the elements but fail to suggest the claimed combinations.

Claim 1 was provisionally rejected under the judicial doctrine of double patenting with respect to claims 1-5 of copending application serial no. 08/678,847. Applicants will submit any necessary terminal disclaimer when claims of the copending application are allowed. However, the claims of the copending application relate only to steps (a)-(c) of independent claims 1 and 4 of the present application; and thus the provisional double patenting rejection essentially repeats the rejections based on the references.

Respectfully submitted,



Carlton H. Hoel

Reg. No. 29,934

Texas Instruments Incorporated

PO Box 655474, M/S 3999

Dallas, Texas 75265

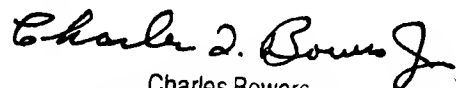
(972) 917-4365

Art Unit: 2,823

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael M. Fahmy, can be reached on (703) 308-4918. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1778.

Scott J. Hawranek
Art Unit: 2823
April 17, 2000



Charles Bowers
Supervisor Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800